



▶ \$1.1 BILLION IN EAST VALLEY INVESTMENTS 3



▶ HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATES 4



▶ PHOENIX-MESA #1 FOR GROWTH 7



Economic Reporter

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY THE CITY OF MESA OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOURTH QUARTER 2013

Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport generates record \$1.3 billion annual economic impact

Supports over 10,000 jobs in regional economy

The Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport generates \$1,311,232,000 annually in economic benefits and supports 10,470 jobs in the region according to a new study from the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University (ASU), which looks at how the airport contributes to the local economy.



Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport

ASU Research Professor Dr. Lee McPheters, who led the study, describes how the airport truly benefits the rapidly growing East Valley area, and Maricopa and Pinal counties overall.

- 2,042 jobs are at the airport;
- Over 60% of the Airport's 1.4 million total passengers were visitors in fiscal year 2013;
- Air visitors spent \$394 million off of the airport in the fiscal year, supporting 4,383 jobs.

“Gateway Airport has grown from being an East Valley economic engine to an asset for the entire state of Arizona,” said City of Mesa Mayor and Gateway Airport Authority Director Scott Smith. “Visitor spending from travelers arriving at Gateway Airport is up by more than 433 percent from just three years ago. These air visitors alone spent \$394 million last year, and that created more than 4,000 jobs.”

The study examined the direct spending from both on-airport activity and air visitors' activity off the airport in fiscal year 2013. That summed up to \$767 million. When added together with the successive rounds of re-spending that money, the total came out to \$1.3 billion for the fiscal year.

The study showed an increase of 79 percent in economic activity surrounding the airport and a 150 percent increase in employment

numbers for businesses in that area for fiscal year 2013. The study also revealed that 60 percent of the total enplaned passengers at Gateway were visitors to Arizona, more than double those recorded in Fiscal Year 2010.

To read more, visit tinyurl.com/GatewayEconImpact.

Groundbreaking for MATHESON'S air separation unit in Mesa

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in September by MATHESON in southeast Mesa for a large capacity Air Separation Unit (ASU) to supply oxygen, nitrogen and argon. “This investment will allow MATHESON to better support our current customers and our recently acquired US AIRWELD distribution business by creating a Southwest ASU network with our existing ASUs in Southern California and New Mexico,” said Senior Vice President Nigel McMullen. The plant is expected to be on stream, producing high-purity merchant product, during third quarter 2014.



MATHESON is a single source for industrial, medical, specialty and electronic gases, gas handling equipment, high performance purification systems, engineering and gas management services, and on-site gas generation with a mission to deliver innovative solutions for global customer requirements. MATHESON is the largest subsidiary of the Taiyo Nippon Sanso Corporation Group, the largest Japanese supplier of industrial gases and one of the five largest suppliers of industrial, specialty, and electronics gases in the world. For more information, visit www.MathesonGas.com.

Mesa's LAUNCHPOINT partners with ASU Polytechnic to support algae cluster

The City of Mesa and Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic's Arizona Center



for Algae Technology and Innovation (AzCATI) are working together to develop a dynamic industry cluster around algae.

AzCATI, located at ASU's Polytechnic Campus in Mesa, serves as a hub for research, testing, and commercialization of algae-based products.

– Continued on page 3.

Economic Development Advisory Board

MEMBERS

Richard Adams - Chair,
Southwest Business Credit
Services

Laura Snow - Vice Chair,
Banner Health

Terry Benelli, NEDCO

James Christensen, Gateway
Commercial Bank

Tony Siebers, Benedictine
University

Mitzi Montoya, ASU College
of Technology & Innovation

Jeff Pitcher, Ballard Spahr, LLC

Jo Wilson, Benedictine
University

Tony Ham, The Boeing
Company

EX OFFICIO

Scott Smith, Mayor, City of
Mesa

Chris Brady, City Manager,
City of Mesa

Brian Campbell, GPEC
Representative, Campbell Law
Group, Chartered

Sally Harrison, Mesa Chamber
of Commerce

Jeffrey Crockett, GPEC
Representative, Brownstein
Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Steve Shope, GPEC
Representative, Sandia Research

STAFF

William Jabjiniak, Economic
Development Department
Director

The Economic Development
Advisory Board meets the first
Tuesday of every month at 7:30
am in the Lower Level Council
Chambers (57 East First
Street). All meetings are open
to the public.



The Quick Jab by Bill Jabjiniak

Mesa's growing aerospace and aviation industry

The City of Mesa is an established player in the aerospace and aviation world. In 2008, the City received the Award of Excellence in Aerospace by *Expansion Solutions* magazine, recognizing Mesa's exceptional progress in economic development in the aerospace industry.

Today, Mesa continues to strengthen its aerospace and aviation cluster. Companies such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, L-3 Communications, MD Helicopters, Cessna, Embraer, Allegiant, Timken, CAE Oxford Aviation Academy, Able Engineering, and Arizona Laboratories for Security and Defense Research (AZ Labs) all have significant operations in Mesa.



Boeing's Apache Longbow

Key to Mesa's aerospace and aviation success are its two nationally recognized airports and economic engines, Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport (PMGA) and Falcon Field:

- PMGA just announced a \$1.3 billion annual economic impact to the state.
- CAE Oxford Global Academy recently announced expansion of its Falcon Field operations.
- PMGA recently welcomed its five millionth passenger.
- Both Falcon Field and PMGA have recently begun expansion and renovation projects.
- More than 100 companies adjacent to the airports employ more than 10,000 employees in the aerospace/aviation, high-tech, manufacturing, and software industry clusters.

Mesa's airports offer near-perfect, year-round flying weather (325 days of sunshine annually); a diverse portfolio of aerospace, defense, aviation and other high-tech industries; plus support operations such as maintenance, repair and overhaul operations (MRO), cargo services, and research and development activities.

PHOENIX-MESA GATEWAY AIRPORT

- PMGA has three long runways, 10,400 feet, 10,200 feet, and 9,300 feet and can accommodate any size aircraft.
- By 2030, PMGA is projected to serve 10 million total passengers.
- Allegiant Air serves passengers through PMGA with 34 destinations nationally.
- More than 300 acres of PMGA land is available for development.
- U.S. Customs on-site with US Visit for international charters (up to 20 passengers and crew).
- FAA-Contracted Air Traffic Control Tower.
- www.phxmesagateway.org

MESA FALCON FIELD

- Falcon Field is the fifth busiest general aviation airport in the U.S. and second busiest general aviation airport in the Phoenix-Mesa metro area.
- More than 700 aircraft are based at Falcon Field with more than 190,000 flight operations annually.
- Two parallel runways of 5,100 and 3,800 feet accommodate a wide range of corporate aircraft. Helicopter operations also find accommodations at Falcon Field.
- Unique on-airport facilities for aviation businesses and 120 acres are available for build-to-suit development.
- Six industrial parks with more than 1,000 acres of industrial-zoned land are located throughout the Falcon Business District (adjacent to the airport), and provide a wide range of options suitable for nearly any operation.
- FAA Air Traffic Control Tower.
- www.mesaaz.gov/falcon_field

To learn more about Mesa's aerospace and aviation industry, visit www.MesaAz.gov/economic.

– LAUNCHPOINT *continued...*

LAUNCHPOINT, the Mesa Technology Accelerator, is designed to provide critical support services to technology-based businesses to encourage business growth and job creation. Located within 600 yards of AzCATI, LAUNCHPOINT has developed a customized program to support algae-focused entrepreneurs performing research at AzCATI. The program aims to encourage successful algae-based ventures by packaging critical laboratory access with business support services.

AzCATI will have a major presence at the 7th Annual Algae Biomass Summit in early October. The Summit serves as a gathering place for businesses promoting new products and industry advancements. The LAUNCHPOINT program will be promoted at the conference in hopes of spurring interest from entrepreneurs nationally. Learn more at www.MesaAccelerator.com.



Chicago Cubs' new training facility nearing completion.

Chicago Cubs and City of Mesa sprinting to the finish



The City of Mesa and Chicago Cubs are quickly nearing the completion of construction of the Chicago Cubs Spring Training facility and a greatly enlarged and enhanced Riverview Park. Ballfield grass, foul poles, stadium seating, batting cage nets and unique park amenities are being installed. What once was a dusty construction site is rapidly emerging as a great training baseball facility and a reimagined Riverview Park. Stay tuned as excitement continues to build as the new facility prepares to open Spring 2014. www.mesaaz.gov/bettermesa/cubs.aspx.

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy consolidates operations to Falcon Field

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy, a global leader in flight training, recently announced it will gradually phase out its Goodyear training facility and consolidate all operations into its Mesa facility at Falcon Field Airport.

The company has 165 employees in Mesa and 30 employees in Goodyear. CAE executives consider Mesa's Falcon Field the preferred facility in order to serve customers, improve efficiency of its flight-training organization, and help meet long-term demand for pilots. The airport's existing infrastructure, including two

runways and available hangar space, will allow for potential growth opportunities in the future.

CAE Oxford Aviation Academy trains approximately 100,000 pilots annually at about 100 locations worldwide and partners with more than 80 airlines. The Academy had about 200 students at the Mesa facility before the consolidation. Learn more about the company at www.caeoaa.com.

\$1.1 billion in East Valley investment announced

Recently, three massive development projects were announced in Mesa and Tempe over a two-day span that amounted to \$1.1 billion, each promising to have lasting positive effects on the Phoenix-Mesa metro area.



Rendering of Grand Canyon University's future Eastmark Campus.

Grand Canyon University has selected Mesa's Eastmark development as the new site for a \$150 million campus. The Christian university currently offers one of the Top 500 Graduate Nursing Programs in the country, and also boasts a Top 100 Online Bachelor's Degree Program, as ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. Currently enrolling over 31,000 students, their new campus in Mesa seeks to house an additional 10,000 students in seven years. Construction is expected to start in early 2014 on the 160 acre campus.

Currently headquartered in Colorado Springs, USA Basketball has chosen Mill Avenue as the site for the \$350 million USA Place, which in 2015, will become the new home and training center for USA Basketball. The mixed-use development will house a 4,500 seat event center, a 330-room hotel, 500 apartments, 160,000 sq. ft. of retail space and 200,000 sq. ft. of office space.

The \$650 million Marina Heights project will be located adjacent to the Hayden Ferry complex along Tempe Town Lake, and is considered to be the "largest office deal in Arizona history," with over 2,000,000 sq. ft. of mixed-use space. Construction will take place over four years, with State Farm leasing five office buildings that will have capacity to hold 8,000 employees.

According to a recent Cassidy Turley report, Metro Phoenix ranked 6th in the nation last year in office-using and non-farm job growth at 3.5 percent and 2.8 percent respectively. The report further characterized Phoenix as a "slow starter, strong finisher," as occupancy rates have only dropped 2.5 percent since Q2 2011, but this is expected to change over the next 12 to 24 months with tenants looking to pursue more build-to-suit opportunities, as was the case with GCU, USA Place and Marina Heights. Thus, it looks as though these three projects may be the tipping point in the commercial development tide for Mesa and Greater Phoenix.

Learn more about opportunities in Mesa by visiting, www.MesaAz.gov/economic.

Mesa Educates

Higher Education Starts Here

The last several months brought exciting developments in Mesa higher education. After more than a year of planning and construction, Benedictine University, Westminster College, Wilkes University and Upper Iowa University celebrated the grand opening of their new Mesa campus locations. Additionally, Mesa Community College's new Health and Wellness building won an award from the American Institutes of Architects. Lastly, Grand Canyon University announced that they would build their East Valley campus in Mesa.

Albright College

Albright College announced that the Arizona State Board for Private Postsecondary Education has approved three new majors that the college will begin marketing this fall. These new concentrations are Information Systems and Management (ISAM), Digital Communications (DIG/COMM), and Game and Simulation Development (GSD).

Recognizing the significant, rapid changes occurring in the computer industry, there is a high demand for graduates who can utilize skills in each of these areas. In a separate venue, the college is also offering non-credit Business Analytics courses for professional development. For more information, visit mesa.albright.edu, email dcpaz@alb.edu, or call 480-659-3608.

ASU Polytechnic

Business is better for nine small companies in downtown Mesa, thanks to entrepreneurship students at the College of Technology & Innovation (CTI) at Arizona State University. A Local Entrepreneurs Assistance Program (LEAP) grant gave \$100,000 to build a partnership between CTI and Mesa's Neighborhood Economic Development Organization (NEDCO) to support and build the capacity of minority-owned businesses along the light rail construction area in Mesa. NEDCO studied about 200 companies and qualified nine minority-owned businesses that needed help. "NEDCO helped us find the businesses and filtered the ones that really needed assistance," said Jason Bronowitz, an ASU lecturer in Technological Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management. Read more at tinyurl.com/StudentsAssistBusiness.



Mesa Center for Higher Education

Mitzi Montoya, Dean and Vice Provost of CTI was asked by Claudia Dreifus of the New York Times "If you could make one change to improve science education in the United States, what would it be?" Montoya responded, "If I could change one thing about engineering education – well, actually, all education – it would be to center it around solving real problems and making things. In other words, we ought to be creating innovators and inventors at our engineering schools." You can read more about Montoya's ideas for improving science education in Dreifus' "Ideas for Improving Science Education" at tinyurl.com/ImprovingScienceEducation.

A.T. Still University

A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health has announced the opening of the Dr. Rick Workman Advanced Care Clinic. The 10,000 sq. ft. oral healthcare facility is Arizona's first to offer the expertise and equipment necessary to treat patients with complex dental needs, including patients with medical conditions such as cancer, hemophilia, and kidney disease, or those with physical and developmental disabilities. In addition to serving as an out-patient dental facility, the clinic will be a training center in special care dentistry for students.

Victory Media, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named ATSU to the coveted Military Friendly Schools list. The list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. In the 2012-13 academic year, ATSU had 126 students serving in the U.S. Military.

ATSU President Craig Phelps, DO, '84 has announced the appointment of the University's first-ever director of diversity. This new position will work to access, promote, and increase diversity and diversity of service among ATSU students, faculty and staff.

www.atsu.edu



The new Benedictine University at Mesa Campus.

Benedictine University at Mesa

Benedictine University at Mesa officially became the first four-year Catholic university campus in Arizona on August 27 when scores of guests, including new students, educators, spiritual leaders and City and University representatives, attended the blessing and ribbon-cutting of Gillett Hall, Benedictine's academic building in downtown Mesa.

The former Southside Hospital building at 225 E. Main St., which underwent a \$10 million yearlong renovation, was blessed by Diocese of Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted in keeping with Catholic and Benedictine tradition.

After the historic opening of its academic building, Benedictine University at Mesa announced that it has welcomed 93 students into its inaugural class September 3. The enrolled students are taking courses in academic programs presented in a lecture-free, collaborative, interactive and technology-enhanced format. www.ben.edu/mesa

DeVry University

Located in the Financial Center on the southeast corner of Southern Ave. and Alma School Rd., DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management have served Mesa and the East Valley since 1998 with undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology. Exciting recent additions to the Mesa Center faculty include Dr. Rodger Adair, Assistant Professor, Business and Management and Dr. Arlene Goodman, Assistant Professor, Business and Accounting. Have you ever wanted to just sit in on class? Now is your chance. Mesa Center Dean, Pam Morrison, and her staff are planning a "Crash-A-Class" event the week of October 7. For details, please contact Dean Morrison at 480-827-1511. www.devry.com

Mesa Community College

Mesa Community College welcomed students to fall semester with a new one-stop Enrollment Services area at the Southern and Dobson Campus. Construction is underway for a new Performing Arts Center and Art Gallery providing new venues for the community to attend art exhibits and live performances. Enrollment for spring semester begins Monday, Oct. 7. Spring classes begin Sat., Jan. 11, 2014. www.mesacc.edu

Westminster College

Recently honored by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation, Westminster College-Mesa welcomed community leaders to its advisory board, announced new academic programs, and celebrated its grand opening with a standing-room-only crowd.

Westminster College joined Mesa city leaders and Wilkes University in August to cut the ribbon on a new college campus building, the Mesa Center for Higher Education (MCHE) at 245 W. 2nd St.

Westminster College-Mesa is honored to welcome the following accomplished community members to its Advisory Board: Dr. Leo Archer; Rev. Dr. Brant Baker; Dr. Joe Creech; Dr. Sally Downey; City of Mesa Councilmember Alex Finter; John Giles; Eric Jackson; The Honorable Thomas Kleinsmidt; Kent Mueller; Jared Ryan; Claudia Seib; and Jeffrey Crockett. mesa.westminster-mo.edu

Wilkes University

Arizona residents interested in earning their MBA from Wilkes University can apply for an MBA scholarship that will reduce total tuition by as much as \$15,000. Scholarships are based on undergraduate grade-point average, and professional experience. Awards are available at the following levels:

- \$15,000 total program award equal to 50 percent of tuition per semester. Awarded to applicants with undergraduate GPA of 3.5 and above.
- \$7,500 total program award equal to 25 percent of tuition per semester. Awarded to applicants with undergraduate GPA of 3.0 to 3.49.
- \$3,000 total program award equal to 10 percent of tuition per semester. Awarded to applicants with undergraduate GPA of 2.5 to 2.99.

Tuition is \$770 per credit. Spring classes start in January at the Mesa Center for Higher Education, 245 W. 2nd St. To qualify, submit a completed program application and official undergraduate transcripts by Dec. 9, 2013. Learn more at www.wilkes.edu/Mesa.

*Mesa Educates U higher education updates are provided by the institutions. To submit material for inclusion, please email Jennifer.Graves@mesaaz.gov.

Light rail construction update

Valley Transit Constructors (VTC) has worked extended hours to get a considerable amount accomplished in the downtown area. By early October, there will be noticeable completion on street and intersection widening, new sidewalks and pedestrian ramps, and street signal and street light work.

Construction work in Downtown Mesa will wrap-up for the summer on October 1. Between Country Club Drive and Centennial Way, the following street configuration will return:

- Two lanes of traffic in each direction
- On-street parking
- Finished sidewalks and ramps at each intersection
- Left-hand turns at signalized intersections

Light rail construction will continue west of Country Club Drive and east of Centennial Way after October 1. Look for updates as progress continues outside of downtown.

The City, Valley Metro and VTC strive to minimize the impacts to Mesa businesses, residents and shoppers. To learn more, visit www.mesaaz.gov/lightrail.

Downtown Mesa Association partnering for success

Partnering with Mesa Chamber of Commerce to provide memberships

The Downtown Mesa Association (DMA), in partnership with the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, is covering the cost for businesses within the DMA district to receive a one-year membership in the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.



The partnership came about after the DMA implemented a 50 percent reduction in the special improvement district assessment

over the next two years of light rail construction to help the business owners along the light rail corridor. The Mesa Chamber of Commerce will provide a substantial discounted membership fee to such a large number of businesses. To date, nearly 60 downtown businesses have taken advantage of this opportunity.

www.mesachamber.org

Partnering with merchants to welcome Mesa colleges

DMA is also partnering with downtown merchants to show their support for area college students and staff. Newsletters, promotions and a specialized webpage on DMA's website (www.downtownmesa.com/colleges) are some of the tools being used to inform students about upcoming downtown events. Recently, several downtown



business owners participated in a roundtable session to brainstorm ways to cater to the influx of Millennials, with ideas including food specials, new menu options, coupons, and exclusive social events.

The DMA looks forward to making Downtown Mesa a place where college students and staff can live, learn and play. Local businesses will be given signs to place in their store windows showing they participate in this program.

Learn more at www.downtownmesa.com.

International indicators

Arizona exports up

The Phoenix Business Journal reported that Arizona exports were \$9.4 billion for the first half of 2013, up from \$9.2 billion for the first two quarters of 2012, making Arizona 22nd among U.S. states for outgoing trade for the first half of 2013, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Arizona's exports to Mexico and Canada increased compared to the first half of 2012. Copper and other minerals exports are also up this year compared to the past five years. Arizona leads the nation for copper mining. For the full article, visit tinyurl.com/AZexports.

U.S. tops confidence survey on foreign investment, displaces China

After 12-years, the U.S. has retaken the top spot among top executives in a survey on foreign direct investment sentiment, displacing China as it makes progress toward steady and sustainable economic growth, according to a recent study.

The United States jumped from fourth place in 2012, according to the 2013 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, a survey of more than 300 executives from 28 countries by global consulting firm A.T. Kearney.

GPEC offers international toolkit

In an effort to attract foreign direct investment by foreign companies in Arizona, the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) launched an international toolkit and forum series, called "Doing Business in Greater Phoenix, U.S.A." The toolkit is designed to assist foreign companies with investment and expansion decisions in the United States and, specifically, the Phoenix-Mesa metro area.

The toolkit is a compilation of how-to advice ranging from human resources issues, immigration law, investment parameters, taxes, import/export laws to banking. The toolkit also features international companies with a presence in the Phoenix-Mesa metro area. Mesa international companies include FUJIFILM Electronic Materials, MGC Pure Chemicals, Matheson Gas, Cambridge Filter Company, Bridgestone Americas, Embraer, Unity Telecom, Canon USA, Mitel Networks, CAE Oxford Aviation Academy, Farmers Insurance Company of Arizona, Sabena Airline Training Center and others. See the toolkit at www.gpec.org/toolkit.

Phoenix-Mesa metro area #1 in nation for economic growth

Arizona continues to show strong in many national rankings

The latest Metro Monitor Report from the Brookings Institute shows strong economic growth for Phoenix-Mesa metro area. The metro area has the highest gross metropolitan product (GMP) growth in the nation with Tucson a close second. The GMP is the total value of goods and services a metropolitan area produces.

tinyurl.com/PhxNo1EconGrowth

Here are a few additional recent rankings.

- Arizona ranked #2 for Workforce, #10 for infrastructure by CNBC. (www.cnn.com/id/100824779)
- Phoenix-Mesa metro area ranked #8 for top sustainable metro areas by *Site Selection* magazine. (siteselection.com/issues/2013/jul/sustainability.cfm)
- Phoenix ranked #9 for best city for 20-somethings by Greatest.com, a health and fitness site for the young and savvy. (greatest.com/health/20-best-cities-20-somethings)

East Valley hospitals ranked best by U.S. News & World Report



Banner Health®

Thirteen Phoenix-Mesa metro area hospitals were named best regional hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*. Mayo Clinic, with 10 nationally ranked specialties and three high-performing specialties, took the top spot for Arizona hospitals in the report.

The magazine ranks hospitals in 16 specialties and selects hospitals based on a variety of criteria, including reputation, mortality rates, patient volumes and key technologies. Only 147 U.S. hospitals scored high enough to make this year's nationally ranked list.

Top ranked East Valley hospitals include:

- #5: Chandler Regional Medical Center
- #7: Mercy Gilbert Medical Center
- #10: Banner Gateway Medical Center (Gilbert)
- #11: Banner Desert Medical Center (Mesa)
- #11: Banner Heart Hospital (Mesa)

health.usnews.com/best-hospitals/rankings

Mesa teacher named Bioscience Educator of the Year

Amanda Grimes, Biotech Academy Coordinator and Mesa High School CTE Teacher at Mesa Public Schools Biotechnology Academy, was named the 2013 Michael A. Cusanovich Arizona Bioscience Educator of the Year by the Arizona Bioindustry Association (AZBIO).



Amanda Grimes, Arizona Bioscience Educator of the Year

“Mesa Public Schools and the Mesa Biotechnology Academy have an exceptional program that has become a national best practice model for getting students excited about preparing for careers in this growing field,” said Joan Koerber-Walker, President and CEO of AZBIO.

The Phoenix-Mesa metro area offers a strong and diverse bioscience industry where companies, research institutions, and organizations are collaborating for success. Learn more at www.azbio.org.

Mesa company unveils biodegradable rubber technology

ENSO Plastics, LLC, located at 4710 E. Falcon Dr., Mesa, has developed a new technology that increases the biodegradation of synthetic rubber in landfills.

The company has taken its knowledge on biodegradable plastics and transferred it to the rubber industry, developing a product called ENSO Restore RL, according to Teresa Clark, vice president of product development for the Mesa-based company.

ENSO Restore RL issues in a new age of rubber. An independent laboratory testing shows nitrile treated with Restore biodegrades about 17 percent in the first 20 days compared to nitrile showing no biodegradation during the same time frame.

The same holds true with test results found in polychloroprene, polyurethane and other synthetic materials when treated with the product. To learn more, see www.ensoplastics.com.

Mesa THINKspot opens at Mesa Library Branch



Mesa THINKspot, a collaborative workspace and makerspace, celebrated its opening, October 1 at the Mesa Public Library's Red Mountain Branch.

As a collaborative workspace, Mesa THINKspot is a place where people interested in becoming an entrepreneur or creating their own business can meet up with others to collaborate or share ideas or best practices. Mesa THINKspot is partnering with ASU Venture Catalyst's Alexandria Co-working Network to bring free workshops on various start-up business topics.

As a makerspace, it's a place where hobbyists or people of all ages come to tinker, create, take-apart, and learn about new things, ranging from electronics to crafts. Children and teens can learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) outside of the classroom. Adults can pick up a new skill that can help them with future jobs or a hobby.

To learn more, visit www.mesathinkspot.tumblr.com.

City of Mesa Office of Economic Development

PO Box 1466
20 East Main Street, Suite 200
Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466

Phone: 480.644.2398
Fax: 480.644.3458

www.mesaaz.gov/economic

EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 2 East Valley Business Expo**
Mesa Convention Center
201 N. Center St., Mesa AZ
2-6 PM
- 8 Dobson Ranch Town Hall with
Mayor Scott Smith and Councilmember
Dennis Kavanaugh**
La Casita Community Center
2719 S. Reyes, Mesa, AZ
6:30-8 PM
- 9 Downtown Business Roundtable
Breakfast with Mayor Scott Smith and
Councilmember Chris Glover**
Il Vineaio
270 W. Main St., Mesa, AZ
7:30-9 AM
Registration at tinyurl.com/Oct9Roundtable
- 10 Fiesta District Police Sub-Station
Open House**
1010 W. Grove Ave., Mesa, AZ
5-7 PM

NOVEMBER

- 6 Mayor's Business Roundtable Luncheon**
Humana
5943 E. McKellips Rd. #106, Mesa, AZ
Noon-1:30 PM
Registration at tinyurl.com/Nov6Roundtable
- 11 Veterans Day**
City offices closed
- 28 Thanksgiving Day**
City offices closed

DECEMBER

- 9-10 Mayor Scott Smith Urban
Redevelopment Summit**
Downtown Mesa
By invitation
- 24 Christmas Eve**
City offices open: 7 AM-1 PM
- 25 Christmas Day**
City offices closed

Falcon Field Airport wins improvement grants

Mesa's Falcon Field Airport was recently awarded a \$600,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to install runway guard lights. The project, along with other federal and state-funded improvements slated to begin this fall, will increase safety for pilots and passengers and maintain the state-of-the-art airport facilities. All the projects are part of the Airport's five-year capital improvement program.



Other projects include PAPI/REIL's lighting and signage at an estimated cost of \$342,000, 90 percent of which will be funded by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT); an Airport Surface Observation System which will be installed by the National Weather Service; terminal building renovations at a cost of \$1.6 million; and a runway pavement overlay project for an estimated \$697,000, 90 percent funded by ADOT. To learn more, visit www.mesaaz.gov/falcon_field.

Visit Mesa launches new marketing campaign

Visit Mesa, the destination marketing organization



VisitMesa.com's new website

for the City of Mesa, will unveil its national marketing campaign this fall with a new website, visitor's guide, national advertising placements, destination video, and print and digital materials.

VisitMesa.com will be retooled and re-designed to feature the new Mesa City Limitless brand, highlight Visit Mesa's partners, and feature updated content on Mesa offerings. Visitors will be able to download the new Mesa Life lifestyle guide from the website, which will highlight Mesa's unique experiences, hotels, restaurants, one-of-a-kind attractions and venues for guests and travel industry professionals.

Learn more about these and other Visit Mesa new marketing efforts, all part of the 2013-2014 program of work, at VisitMesa.com or call 480-827-4700.

Mesa Arts & Culture Department kicks off new season

Mesa Arts and Culture Department kicked off its season in September with its annual Remix/Remaster event at the Mesa Arts Center (MAC) in downtown Mesa. Thousands of visitors enjoyed an array of performances, in-studio demos, and premier art exhibits.

On September 25, Mesa Arts and Culture, NEDCO and Artspace announced the launch of a market study designed to identify the specific space needs of Greater Phoenix artists and arts organizations. The study is being conducted in preparation for the development of a new creative space in downtown Mesa by Artspace, the nation's largest non-profit developer of such spaces. At the event, J.P. Morgan Chase announced a \$150,000 donation, and Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) announced a \$25,000 donation.

To learn more about Mesa Arts and Culture, visit www.MesaArtsCenter.com, www.azmnh.org, and www.ArizonaMuseumForYouth.com.

Staff Profile: Karen McNulty



Karen McNulty became a member of the Office of Economic Development in June 2013 as an Administrative Support Assistant II.

Prior to joining the City of Mesa, Karen worked as an Executive Assistant to CEO/Office Manager for eEye Digital Security (now BeyondTrust) in Phoenix. Before moving to Phoenix, Karen spent 11 years at Welch's in Concord, MA as a Senior Communications Specialist.

Born and raised in Boston, Karen attended Assumption College where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Communications/Liberal Studies. Karen can be reached at 480-644-3534 or karen.mcnulty@mesaaz.gov.